

Exhibit A

42. An article [20] according to claim 41, wherein the support member has a negative coefficient of thermal expansion selected such that $|d\lambda/dT|$ is approximately 10% of $d\lambda/dT$ of an otherwise identical comparison grating that is not attached to a support member. [See, for example, page 11, lines 20-22 and Figure 8 of applicants' specification.]

43. An article [20] according to claim 41, wherein the operating temperature range includes 20°C. [See, for example, Figure 8 of applicants' specification.]

44. An article [20] according to claim 43, wherein the operating range includes at least a portion of the range -20° to 65°C. [See, for example, Figure 8 of applicants' specification.]

45. An article [20] according to claim 41, wherein the optical fiber [24] is a silica-based optical fiber. [See, for example, page 6, line 14, of applicants' specification.]

46. An article [20] according to claim 41, wherein the optical fiber [24] is attached to the support member [22] at least over the length of the refractive index grating [26]. [See, for example, page 10, lines 27-28, and Figure 5 of applicants' specification.]

47. Article [20] according to claim 41, wherein said optical fiber is attached to the support member at bonding platforms [40, 42, 54, 56]. [See,

for example, page 9, line 29, to page 10, line 20, and Figures 2-4 of applicants' specification.]

48. Article [20] according to claim 47, wherein said bonding platforms [54, 56] are configured such that said refractive index grating is spaced from said support member. [See, for example, page 10, lines 13-20, and Figures 3-4 of applicants' specification.]

49. Article [20] according to claim 47, wherein said bonding platforms [40, 42] comprise a material selected to have a coefficient of thermal expansion that is substantially matched to the coefficient of thermal expansion of the optical fiber [24]. [See, for example, page 10, lines 5-7, of applicants' specification.]

50. Article [20] according to claim 41, wherein said support member comprises a first negative thermal expansion coefficient member [22] bonded to a second positive thermal expansion coefficient member [40, 42], said first and second members selected to provide a support member having a desired value of the negative thermal expansion coefficient. [See, for example, page 10, lines 3-5, of applicants' specification.]